

## NEW BOOKS.

**How Barendale Hall Was Set on Fire.**  
The persons most interested in finding out the cause of the conflagration that consumed Barendale Hall in Ellen Thornycroft Fowler's story "Fuel of Fire" (Dodd, Mead & Co.) strangely omitted to ponder as it deserved the prophecy on which the story is founded. When Vivien of the Glade was burned at the stake at the time of the Wars of the Roses she pointed with her right hand to Barendale Hall and declared with all the authority of a martyr that it should be burned three times, once by the King, once by the State, and once by a power a thousand-fold stronger and higher than either of these. This story, a modern tale, is concerned with the third burning, and it seems to us that in looking for the cause of the fire the question should have been asked what that last and mighty power was bound to be.

Obviously some natural power. Not the lightning, for there was no thunderstorm on that day. The moon is a mighty power; it hoists the tides, but it does not set fire to English baronial homes. We may eliminate the moon and the stars and there remains the sun. Of course it was the sun. It could not have been a ball of fire from heaven following upon the belchings of a volcano, quite safe to say that no spark from Hecla or Vesuvius touched off that stately pile.

Though the power could have been nothing but the sun, it certainly is a little perplexing to think how the sun could have accomplished any intimate contact with a house enveloped in British weather. But just there is where the clear and scientific mind of Prof. Gottfried made itself valuable in the story. He showed that with the aid of a powerful magnifying glass the rays of the sun, even in England, could be focused to a point of heat sufficient to set fire to matches or other highly inflammable material. His demonstration was left no doubt of the entire accuracy of the forecast made by Vivien of the Glade. As we say, the wonder is that the persons interested should have paid no attention to the words of that prophetic. If they had heeded her it would not have been thought that Laurence Barendale set fire to Barendale Hall for the sake of insurance. The insurance company would have paid up and asked no questions.

We notice that it is said of Laurence Barendale on page 197 that "by the time he was thoroughly awake the awful truth dawned upon his drowsy brain that Barendale Hall was in flames." If he was drowsy when he was thoroughly awake, it is no wonder, perhaps, that he failed to guess the cause of the fire. It was stupid of him to think himself called upon to break off his engagement with Nancy Burton. Nancy was miserable, and we were glad when this trouble was adjusted and when "on Nancy's face joy played the part of India rubber and erased sorrow's handwriting."

The insurance on Barendale Hall was \$100,000. It was paid immediately on the professor's discovery. The professor and Vivien of the Glade made a great team.

In the Pleasant Shadow of the Dene.

Much that is pleasant will be encountered in Rosa Nonnette Carey's story, "The Highway of Fate" (J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia). It is just that we should encounter pleasant things in the inevitable highway in question. We have always felt in fancy the pleasantness of a Dene, and we are satisfied that it was with entire reason that to Eunice here the Dene appeared magnificent and altogether ideal. It seems to us that though we hardly needed to be told that it was a well-built, comfortable house, suitable for the needs of a large family. Who ever could fancy so wrong and so cruel a thing as a Dene measured only to the needs of a small family? Still, we are pleased to have the details of a Dene just as we know they have been. The rooms, spacious, though not specially lofty; the hall large and full of handsome dark oak furniture; the dining room, library and morning room well proportioned and cheerful and furnished also in that fine dark oak; the drawing room with its square table, its silver and antique china, its circle of easy chairs with the fire—we love the Dene and we love to have it rehearsed. Lillian could hear Douglas's deep voice rising and falling and mingling with the notes of the wood pigeons as he conversed with Eunice, and the fresh girlish tones of Eunice as she conversed with Douglas. "God bless them!" murmured Lillian as she went slowly down the gravel path that bordered the tennis lawn. No feeling of envy or jealousy troubled her in her simple loving heart. The happiness of three may be understood from the concluding remark of Lillian, addressed to herself. "I shall not be in the way," she said; "they will never wish to part with me. Monahan will be my home as well as theirs. Oh, how content and happy I ought to be, for a threefold card is not quickly broken." Fate softens this highway, as knowing our wishes and our needs.

Hot Coals on the Head of Obadiah.

Obadiah Boone treated Henry West abominably in "A Red Man of Quality," by Edward Everett Billings (The Seaside Publishing Company). West was the noble young Indian from whom the story gets its title. "Hold or post mortem on him. Kill him fast!" examine him afterwards," was Obadiah's advice when Prof. Garceous's party of sapphire hunters first fell in with Henry. The young Indian used much finer language than old Obadiah did. "Has that anomalous brute gone?" he inquired with dignity after Obadiah had exhausted his abuse and turned on his heel. But Obadiah changed his tune later. The professor's party was about to leave, and Obadiah, who had blown away, his shirt was torn open, and with blood streaming down his face and matting in his whiskers he looked like one. He was felled to the earth, however, and would have been killed if Henry West had not dashed in and saved him at the expense of his own life. One of the enemy "buried his knife in the heart of the noblest Indian that ever lived. A gasp, a groan, and Henry West was no more. Obadiah pronounced a handsome eulogy upon him. As to the identity of Henry West, the story tells us that it "must ever remain a mystery."

Barnaby Lee Will Make Friends.

A highly readable story of early New York will be found in "Barnaby Lee," by John Bennett (The Century Company). It was written for young readers, but older ones will find it worth their while. Barnaby had lively adventures in a picturesque time—the time of Peter Stuyvesant and the capture of New Amsterdam by the English. Notable figures of the city's early history are included in the generous and inspiring panorama. The illustrations of the story, by Clyde O. De Land, are at once numerous and of striking good quality. Not many tales so richly and handsomely illustrated.

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## GILMAN ESTATE COMPROMISE.

Hartford to Run the Business—Stock Company and Division of Stock.

A compromise agreement has been reached by the administrators of the estate of George H. Gilman, the tea merchant, and G. H. Hartford, his former partner, who has been seeking a share in the estate.

By this agreement, which is approved by all the next of kin and by Mrs. Helen Potts, who has laid claim to the entire estate, the business known as the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company is to be transferred to a corporation, with a capital stock of \$2,000,000, of which \$1,000,000 will be preferred and the remainder common stock.

A million and a quarter of the preferred will go to the administrators and the rest to the preferred and all the common stock to Hartford, who agrees to devote all his time and attention exclusively to the business for the next five years. Another clause provides for the discontinuance of all the suits pending between the administrators and Hartford. The business includes 108 tea stores scattered all over the Union, with headquarters in this city.

The agreement was submitted to Superior Court yesterday for his approval. He took it under advisement.

## HER COMING-OUT TEA.

Miss Henrietta Constable Weatherbee is introduced to society.

Mrs. Edwin H. Weatherbee of 240 Madison avenue introduced her daughter, Miss Henrietta Constable Weatherbee, to society at a tea yesterday afternoon. Among those who assisted were Miss Elsie Ladd, the Misses Schley, Miss Mary Constable, Miss Edith Slayback, Miss Louise Merrill, Miss Edith Downey, Miss Elsie Peckley, Miss Florence Kelley, Miss Helen Reed, Miss Edith Talcott, Miss Carpenter and Miss Mabel Hyde. A dinner for the receiving party and an equal number of young men followed, and afterward there was informal dancing.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL MAN IN COURT.

Alfred Tilly Accused of Getting \$500 by Misrepresentation.

Alfred Tilly of 31 Kingston avenue, Brooklyn, was in the Tombs police court yesterday on the complaint of Otto F. von Arnim of 170 East Seventy-ninth street, who says Tilly got \$500 from him by misrepresentation. Tilly was held in \$1,000 bail for examination. He has been prominent in church and Sunday school work in Brooklyn and has acted as chief marshal of the annual parade of Sunday school children.

Von Arnim says Tilly persuaded him to buy fifty shares of stock in the Union Specialty Manufacturing Company of 302 Broadway at a time when he knew the company was insolvent. Tilly denies the charges.

## Cottillion of Eighty Takes Tea.

Mrs. Algernon Sydney Sullivan of 16 West Eleventh street, gave a largely attended tea yesterday afternoon, to the members and patronesses of the cottillion of Eighty. She was assisted in receiving by Mrs. Robert C. Myles, Mrs. Harry C. Adams, the Misses Mildred Barnes, Rosalie Jones, Florence Sullivan, Elizabeth Price and Betty Collamore.

## Duse Gives \$200 to an Immigrant Society.

Mme. Eleonora Duse has sent \$200 to the Society for the Protection of Italian Immigrants, with a message of appreciation for the work the society is doing in caring for and protecting the immigrants of Italian nationality arriving at this port.

## Guests to Meet Gen. Chaffee.

Among the guests at dinner with Major-General A. R. Chaffee, U. S. A., commanding the Department of the East, when he is entertained to-morrow by Col. Dyer, before receiving the Twelfth Regiment, will be Archbishop Farley, Major-General C. F. Fox, August Belmont, Adrian Iselin, Jr., Cornelius Vanderbilt, W. B. Gurnee, Jr. and ex-Gov. Dyer of Rhode Island.

## PUBLICATIONS.

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## CHRISTMAS NUMBER

## HARPER'S WEEKLY

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A Mistletoe Mistake  
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Molly's Quest

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Christmas Eve  
A Critical Moment for the Christmas Dinner  
Christmas Morning  
Here We Are Again  
The Strenuous Moment  
Santa Claus Knows His Business  
The Traveller's Christmas Luck  
The Christmas Story-Teller  
The Christmas Mail in the Far North  
The Toy-Shop Window  
Confiscating the Enemy's Christmas Forage  
Breakdown of the Christmas Stage  
Gathering Christmas Trees  
The Secret Out  
Under the Mistletoe  
Why ye Squire was Late to ye Christmas Dinner

## FOEMS

WILLIAM DEAN HOWELLS  
JOHN RENDRICK BANGS  
GUY WETMORE CARRYL  
LOUISE MORGAN SILL

The Christmas Spirit  
The Vizier of Rast  
Harlequin  
The Birthday of the Christ

## CHRISTMAS SKETCHES

JOHN RENDRICK BANGS  
E. S. MARTIN  
THEODORE DREISER

From the Memoirs of Santa Claus  
A Dream of Christmas  
Christmas in the Tenements

## BLACK AND WHITE DRAWINGS

H. S. WATSON  
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Christmas Sweetmeats in Naples  
The Experiences of Prince Foo Tin Pan  
Jack Frost's Harvest  
Will Santa Claus Know It's a Stocking?  
The Darby's Christmas Dinner  
Christmas in the South  
The Return from the Christmas Dance  
Christmas in the Arizona Desert  
A Contrast  
Christmas on a Man-of-War  
Santa's Christmas Nightmare  
Uncle Sam's Christmas—1802-1852-1902

## OUT TO DAY

## NEW EXPLOSIVES RULES.

Contractors Raise So Many Objections That Their Adoption Is Put Off.

At the meeting of the Municipal Explosives Commission at Fire Headquarters yesterday, the proposed regulations governing the handling and use of explosives in this city were made public. A number of contractors were present and they raised so many objections to the proposed regulations that the meeting was postponed until Wednesday afternoon.

George F. Palmer, contractor of 1123 Broadway, objected to the provisions requiring contractors to give large bonds to dealers and manufacturers.

"It is not just," he said, "to compel a contractor to give a \$25,000 bond for a magazine containing 500 pounds of explosives while the manufacturers can haul through the streets a truck load of the same stuff weighing a thousand pounds after giving a bond of \$5,000. Another objection is the rule forbidding the giving of orders to the labor handling the explosives. Under that provision I could not tell one of my workmen now I wanted him to blast a hole."

Workmen in the drill ground back of Fire Headquarters are at work building a standard magazine for the storage of explosives. These magazines, which all contractors must use, will cost \$250 each. In addition the contractors are compelled to give a bond to protect the surrounding property owners for each magazine.

The standard magazine for the storage of more than 100 pounds of explosives consists of two buildings. The larger is a frame structure covered with tin and painted red and kept warm by a hot-water apparatus. The stove used in heating the hot water is in a shed a few feet away and the two shanties are connected by piping.

In his efforts to put out the fire Mr. Chandler had his hands and arms slightly burned. Mr. Henry W. Webster, one of his neighbors, sent in an alarm. The fire was soon extinguished, but the loss which was mainly by water amounted to \$3,200.

## "BIGGEST THING IN ITS HISTORY"

Brooklyn to Be Furnished With It by a New Syndicate.

The plot of ground at Fulton and Lawrence streets, Brooklyn, with a frontage of 100 feet on each street, has been sold by the McNulty & Fitzgerald Company for James B. Healy to a syndicate of capitalists for \$325,000. The property is opposite the big department store of Abraham & Straus. The new owners, it is said, in using it will furnish Brooklyn with the "biggest thing" in its history.

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other patronesses. Frederick Woodruff led the cottillion.

To Inspect Our Asylums.

Mayor Ashbridge of Philadelphia and his Commissioner of Charities will come to New York this morning for a day's inspection of the city asylums and hospitals on Ward's and Blackwell's islands. They will have luncheon with the inmates of the workhouse and will get the same bill of fare as the regular boarders, but it is understood that the luncheon will be more elaborate than usual.

The first of the winter's series of junior cottillions, now in the fourth year, was given last night at Sherry's. Supper was served at midnight and afterward a cottillion was danced, led by Alexander M. Hadden, who had Miss Muriel Robbins for his partner.

The first of a series of fortnightly dances arranged by Mrs. Lewis Livingston Delafield, was given last night in the Astor Gallery of the Waldorf-Astoria. The guests were received by Mrs. L. Delafield and

Where Society Dined Last Night.

The first of the Wednesday cottillions for this season, was given last night at Delmonico's. The cottillions keep their original name though not held at present on Wednesdays.

The guests were received in the foyer by Mrs. George Gordon Battle, Mrs. James Lindley Gordon, Mrs. E. Hope Norton, Mrs. Frank Jay Gould, Miss Edith Matthews, Miss Anna Dewey Paulding, Miss Lucille Bacon, the Misses Wythe and Miss Grace Deland.

Owing to the large attendance there was a double cottillion, led at the one end by Dr. George Bollig Lee, who danced with Miss Elsie Castellan, and at the other end by Dr. George Hinton Bell, who had for his partner, Miss Lucille V. Bacon.

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